

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2013

City Hall, East Providence

7:30 PM

Members present: Lorraine Nik (Chair), John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Member Absent: John Burrridge and Marie Esten

Public present: None

Call to Order - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Review of Minutes - The Commission will review the January meeting minutes at the March 19 meeting.

Public Comment - None

Planning Department Update

City Planning Department - W. Barnes advised the Commission that the Planning Department relocation in City Hall would be happening on February 20. The move is part of City and School department consolidation efforts. The Planning Department will now be officially located on the 2nd floor in City Hall.

Emergency Management - W. Barnes reported that the City's new Emergency Management FaceBook web page was helpful in keeping residents informed during the February blizzard.

Correspondence

- 2013 Land and Water Summit - Announcement letter and agenda for March 9 event at URI
- Northern RI Conservation District Annual Report

Old Business

Earth Day - The Commission discussed proposed activities for the April 20 event. W. Barnes indicated that the City is seeking grant funding to buy more native shrubs for planting along the new trail system at the Hunt's Mill property abutting the Ten Mile River. The Commission determined that the new plantings, trash cleanup, trail maintenance, and removing invasive vines and other plants would be appropriate for Earth Day. Final plans will be made at the next two Commission meetings.

New Business

City ROW's - A recent law suit involving an apparent City right-of-way at 61 White Avenue was discussed by the Commission. The issue as to who actually owns the easement to the shoreline (the City or the adjoining property owner) is in dispute and will be determined in Superior Court. It was determined that the Commission should proceed on developing an accurate open space

parcel map to identify all open space and conservation properties in the City. M. Esten has offered her GIS expertise to develop a map with data supplied by W. Barnes. The map could be posted on the Commission's web page when completed. The map could be posted and be a resource for residents and visitors seeking to explore open space in East Providence.

Potential flora/fauna discovery events - W. Barnes mentioned the possibility of partnering with the Audubon Society of RI for discovery events at City conservation areas. The Conservation Commission could host the event(s) and Audubon would provide the flora/fauna experts for the public events. Examples would be nature walks to identify native plants or a night time owl walk. The Commission will discuss this matter further at another meeting.

Commission Member Items - None

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM on a motion by J. Rose and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary